

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

September 25, 2023
District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

School Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Five individuals were inducted into the 2023 Northfield High School Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony on Saturday morning. Congratulations to Cole Jirik, Todd Mathison, Marla (Thomforde) Neuger, Kasey (Wellman) Felling, and Frank Huebner. Also inducted was the 1979 Raiders girls basketball team; the state tournament runner-up.
- Every year the Rice County United Way Day of Caring volunteers are recruited and carry out projects requested from organizations in our community. This year, the storage shed at NCEC was painted and high school volunteers picked up trash around the school.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. District Youth Council (DYC) Update. DYC co-chairs Connor Percy and McKenna Carlson updated the board about their plans for the 2023-2024 school year.
- b. Superintendent State of the District Overview. Superintendent Hillmann presented an overview of the district's strategic plan implementation, progress toward its benchmarks, and upcoming focus areas. Dr. Hillmann will share the presentation at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Sept. 27.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Butler, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on September 11, 2023.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Personnel Items
 - i. Appointments
 - 1. Megan Bauer, EarlyVenture Teacher at the NCEC, effective 10/2/2023. Step 5 - \$20.57/hour.
 - 2. Robert Coleman, General Education EA at Spring Creek for 2.25 hours/day at Spring Creek, effective 9/13/2023 through 6/6/2024. Step 4, \$18.05/hour.
 - 3. Zoe Condon, Custodian at the High School, effective 9/27/2023. Step 2, \$20.09/hour.
 - 4. Chelsea Hinderscheit, Child Nutrition Associate I at Greenvale Park, effective 9/27/2023. \$20.84/hour.
 - 5. Amy Hales, Special Education EA/PCA at the Middle School for 3.5 hours/day, effective 9/25/2023. Step 4 - \$18.05/hour, plus prorated PCA stipend.
 - 6. Jackson LeBlanc, Recreation Instructor Lead or Swim Lead, effective 9/14/2023 through 5/31/2024. \$15.75/hour.
 - 7. Emyla Lewis, Community School Club Leader at Greenvale Park, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/26/2024. \$24.30/hour.
 - 8. Correction: Brian Link, Custodian at the Middle School - hired at Step 1. Further information received, change to Custodian at the Middle School, Step 5 - \$21.45/hour.
 - 9. Parker Max, Recreation Instructor Lead or Swim Lead, effective 9/23/2023 through 5/31/2024. \$14.50/hour.
 - 10. Jesse Olson, Recreation Instructor Lead or Swim Lead, effective 9/23/2023 through 5/31/2024. \$14.75/hour.

11. Trey Petersen, Recreation Instructor Lead or Swim Lead, effective 9/21/2023 through 5/31/2024. \$15.75/hour.
 12. Allyn Putnam, KidVenture Site Assistant on-call as needed at all elementary schools, effective 9/25/2023, Step 1, \$14.90/hour.
 13. Lauren Quinzel, Special Education EA/PCA at Spring Creek for 6.75 hours/day, effective 10/2/2023. Step 2, \$17.03/hour plus prorated PCA stipend.
 14. Kelly Radtke, CNA I at Spring Creek for 3.25 hours/day, effective 9/25/2023. \$20.84/hour.
 15. Kaitlin Schulz, Event Worker at the Middle School, effective 9/15/2023.
 16. Noah Schomburg, Assistant Director for the High School fall play, effective 9/25/2023.
 17. Abigail Vanyo, Long-term substitute Early Venture Teacher at NCEC, beginning 9/21/2023 through 12/29/2023. Step 3 - \$19.36/hour.
 18. Karrie Vogel, Special Education EA/PCA at Spring Creek for 6.5 hours/day, effective 9/21/23. Step 4, \$18.05/hour plus prorated PCA stipend of \$2,319.02.
 19. Scott Broughton, Assistant Boys Cross Country coach at the High School, effective 8/14/2023, \$4,844 stipend.
 20. Erna Janssens, Recreation Building Supervisor, beginning 12/3/2023 through 5/31/2024. \$18.39/hour.
 21. Max Kasten, Event Worker at the Middle School, beginning 9/27/2023.
 22. Coral Ramos, Community School Club Leader at Greenvale Park for up to 12 hours/week,, beginning 10/2/2023 through 5/17/2024. \$24.30/hour.
 23. Amanda Rezac, Special Education EA/PCA at Greenvale Park for 6.75 hours/day, beginning 9/25/2023. Step 2 - \$17.03/hour + prorated PCA stipend.
- ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Sybil Betsinger, .50 FTE Occupational Therapist at the NCEC, add .35 FTE Cultural Liaison District Wide, effective 10/2/2023.
 2. Erin Blanck, General Education EA at NCEC for 14.1 hours/week, change to General Education EA at NCEC for 20 hours/week, effective 9/18/2023.
 3. Russel Boyington, General Education EA and KidVenture Site Assistant, add Community School Club Leader for up to 12 hours/week, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/18/2024. \$24.30/hour
 4. Lindsey Downs, Grade 1 Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher for up to 8 hours/week at Spring Creek, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/18/2024. \$40/hour.
 5. Ana Gallego, Special Education EA/PCA and General Ed EA at Greenvale Park for 7.25 hours/day, add Community School Club Leader for up to 12 hours/week, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/18/2024. \$24.30/hour
 6. Ellen Haefner, Parent Educator at the NCEC for 20 hours/week, change to Parent Educator for 25 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 9/18/2023.
 7. Inger Hanson, EL teacher .50 FTE at the ALC and .50 FTE at Greenvale Park, change to EL teacher at the ALC .55 FTE and EL teacher at Spring Creek .45 FTE, effective 9/18/2023 through 6/6/2024.
 8. Beth Kuyper, Special Education EA/PCA at the Middle School for 6,75 hours/day, add .25 hour/day, effective 9/13/23 through 6/6/24.
 9. Catherine Lovrien, WILL Program Teacher at the Middle School, add Community School Teacher for up to 8 hours/week, effective 9/28/2023 through 5/16/2024. \$40/hour
 10. Rebekka Schrank, Special Education Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher for up to 8 hours/week at Spring Creek, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/18/2024. \$40/hour.
 11. Libby Stanton, ECFE Teacher for 20 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE Teacher for 25 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 9/18/23.
 12. Heather Stanton Ims, 1.0 FTE Guidance Counselor at the Middle School, add Middle School Youth Center Teacher for up to 8 hours/week, Monday through Thursday, effective 10/24/2023 through 5/16/2024. \$40/hour.
 13. Mairin Born, Grade 1 Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher at Spring Creek for up to 8 hours/week, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/17/2024. \$40/hour.
 14. Ashley Douglas, Special Education EA/PCA at Bridgewater, add Community School Club Leader at Bridgewater for up to 8 hours/week, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/17/2024. \$24.30/hour.
 15. Kay Goodrich, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.25 hours/day at the High School, change to Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.33 hours/day at the High School, effective 9/21/2023-6/6/2024.
 16. Gretchen Heil, Kindergarten Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher at Spring Creek for up to 8 hours/week, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/17/2024. \$40/hour.
 17. Anna Kelly, Science Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Community School Teacher at Greenvale Park for up to 12 hours/week, effective 10/2/2023 through 5/17/2024. \$40/hour.
 18. Beth Winter, Special Education EA/PCA for 3.08 hours/day, add .134 hours/day to special education EA/PCA time.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Tyler Balow, FMLA leave of absence on or about 11/6/2023 through approximately 11/21/2023.
 2. Jenelle Mullin, Child Nutrition Associate at the High School, extending the end of FMLA leave to 12/4/2023.
 3. Ann Schmidt, Child Nutrition Associate at the High School, FMLA leave beginning on 11/16/23 through 12/3/2023.

4. Noreen Cooney, School Social Worker at Spring Creek, FMLA leave of absence beginning on 9/22/2023 and extending intermittently for up to 60 work days.
 5. Nancy Meyers, CNA III at the Middle School and Special Education EA/PCA bus EA District wide, FMLA leave of absence beginning 9/26/2023 for approximately 14 days.
 - iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
 1. Noelle Gilomen, Child Nutrition Associate, resignation effective 9/22/2023.
 2. Dustee Bennett, CNA I at Spring Creek, resignation effective 9/15/2023.
 3. Andrea Nelson-Walker, Benefits/Payroll Specialist at the District Office, resignation effective 10/6/2023.
 - d. Grant Application. Superintendent Hillmann, Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf, and Director of Instructional Services Hope Langston requested school board approval for a \$120,300 Teacher Mentorship & Retention of Effective Teachers Grant from PELSB from December 2023 through June 30, 2025. The PELSB grant will provide funding to enhance our teacher mentorship program as we support new teachers in the school district.
7. Items for Individual Action
- a. Activities Sponsor Partner Agreement. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Nelson, the board unanimously approved the activities sponsor partner agreement with Community Resource Bank as presented. This will cover the entire cost of the scoreboard in exchange for ten years of advertising for Community Resource Bank.
 - b. Proposed 2023 Payable 2024 Property Tax Levy. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously certified to County Auditors the 2023 Payable 2024 Preliminary Levy Limitation and Certification at the maximum authority. The amount of the preliminary levy for 2024 is \$21,593,365.08 and represents a 2.17% increase over last year. This represents the maximum levy amount as of this publication. The preliminary property tax levy for 2024 is required to be certified to the district's home county auditor no later than September 30, 2023.
8. Items for Information
- a. DYC Brunch. The District Youth Council is hosting a brunch for school board members on Saturday, November 11, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m at the Northfield Community Resource Center.
9. Future Meetings
- a. Monday, October 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
 - b. Monday, October 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
 - c. Monday, November 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
10. Adjournment
- On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz
School Board Clerk